

12 August 2015

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

Biographies of Panelists

Aashish Khullar



Aashish Khullar is board member at Children and Youth International and their Organising Partner representative for UN MGCY. He has been facilitating youth led engagement in different UN processes since the lead up to Rio+20. His academic background involves studies in sustainable development, economics and conflict resolution.

Arielle Newton



Arielle Newton is an organizer with Black Lives Matter NYC Chapter. She is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Black Millennials, a digital platform committed to the cultural empowerment of Black young adults. Her work in youth organizing began with her involvement with the Rockaway Youth Task Force in 2012.

Adrian Alfred



Adrian Alfred is a youth advocate for youth empowerment, a field for which he gained greater appreciation through his study of International Relations and from growing up in the community of Buxton/Friendship which many would consider a vulnerable community. He considers himself lucky to have been able to overcome the challenges that have made so many youths “slip through the cracks of society”. Even though he hasn’t reached where he wants to be in life, he knows that he is on the right track and will continue to press on.

He is a Founding and Steering Committee member of the Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC): a non-governmental youth led organization which is a network of youth and youth-led body committed to youth advocacy. Aside from its monthly civic educational activities, the group has been involved in a number of campaigns targeting youths and

aimed at getting their voices heard. He is especially proud of the group's "Vote Like a Boss campaign" (VLAB), which was directed to the youth voter population primarily first time voters through the use of social media and public service announcements and outreach across the various regions of Guyana.

Mark Brennan



Mark Brennan, Ph.D. is the UNESCO Chair for Rural Community, Leadership, and Youth Development and Professor of Leadership and Community Development at the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Brennan's teaching, research, writing, and program development concentrates on the role of community and leadership development in the youth, community, and rural development process. In this context, much of his work has focused on community action, youth development, locally based natural resource management, economic development, and social justice.

He is Co-Founder of the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Children, Youth, and Community. Dr. Brennan has over 20 years' experience designing, conducting, and analyzing social science research related to community and rural development. This work has involved extensive comparative research throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. Dr. Brennan's research and program development has been funded by a variety of government, foundation, and private sources and resulted in over 120 publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, books, and outreach publications, and over invited 150 presentations at professional meetings. His recent books include *Theory, Practice, and Community Development* (2013) and *Community Leadership Development: A Compendium of Theory, Research, and Application* (2013).

Gloria Alcocer Olmos



Gloria Alcocer Olmos holds a degree in Cultural Studies by the University of Claustro de Sor Juana. She is the Founder and CEO of Citizen Force Organization, AC and Regional Director of the Ibero-American Youth Network Developing. Since 2005 she has been an activist for civil and political youths rights in Mexico and Latin America. She coordinated the national observatory of public policies for youth and civic education observatories and promotion of youth vote in the federal elections of 2009, 2012 and 2015. She serves as technical advisor to federal government agencies such as the Mexican Institute for Youth and international organizations such as the Ibero-American Youth Organization, the United Nations Program for Development, UNESCO, among others.

Her work as an activist for civic and political participation of youth has led her to work with young people from civil society, academics, members of groups and members of political parties.

Jean Manney



As US Country Representative, **Jean Manney** leads Restless Development USA, an affiliate of the global youth-led development agency, working to establish strategic partnerships and initiatives that support youth policy and practice and the organization's global work. Jean has been driving growth and innovation in civic engagement and youth participation for more than a decade, including developing service-learning programs and campus-community partnerships at higher education institutions in the US, supporting a youth empowerment program in Guadalajara, Mexico, and researching innovations in volunteering models through the lens of active global citizenship. Prior to launching Restless Development USA, Jean was the Director of Strategic Development at Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP), where she designed and managed national and international initiatives, networks and partnerships that advance youth civic engagement programs and policies.

Her Master's degree combined international development and NGO management at Roehampton University in London and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. Her B.A. is in International Relations and Spanish from Tufts University.

Mari Ullman



Mari Ullmann has more than a decade of experience working in international and domestic policy and advocacy on behalf of children and youth. Serving as Advocacy Advisor at the United Nations Liaison Office of Plan International in New York, Mari has been primarily responsible for promoting the rights and needs of children and young people within the post-2015 processes. Before joining Plan International, she held positions at the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution, and Save the Children in Ethiopia.

She earned a Master's degree in International Education from New York University, where she was awarded the E. George Payne Memorial Award for leadership, academic achievement, and humanitarian spirit. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from McGill University in Montréal, Canada.

Jakapop Adam



Jakapop Adams is the Coordinator of Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network (TYACN) and a Thammasat University's Student Representative to TYACN. He is actively involved in many national and international youth activities: He was Thailand's delegate for the International Conference of ASEAN Young Leaders and has been mobilizing youth for anti-corruption activities in Thailand. He is one of the core team members in the TYACN.

Born in Bangkok, he is a Thai national who recently graduated from Southeast Asian Studies Programme, Thammasat University in Thailand.